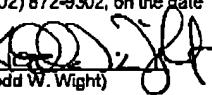


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (702) 872-9302, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 19, 2003

Signature: 
(Todd W. Wight)Docket No.: 297912001911
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Tarun J. Edwin, et al.

Application No.: 09/858,035

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: May 14, 2001

Examiner: P. Prebilic

For: EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED GRAFT**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a three month extension of time to and including April 1, 2003 to respond to the Office Action mailed October 1, 2002.

This petition is being filed in order to ensure copendency with application being filed concurrently herewith.

In the event that a further petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted at this time, applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to ensure that the above-identified application does not become abandoned.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-1952 in the amount of \$930.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(3). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper

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Application No.: 09/858,035

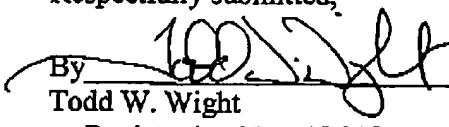
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Docket No.: 297912001911

hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 03-1952, under Order No. 297912001911. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 19, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Todd W. Wight

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(949) 251-7500
Attorneys for Applicant

oc-254013